

56 Brecknock pseud.

A
P L A N
For Establishing the
GENERAL PEACE
O F
E U R O P E

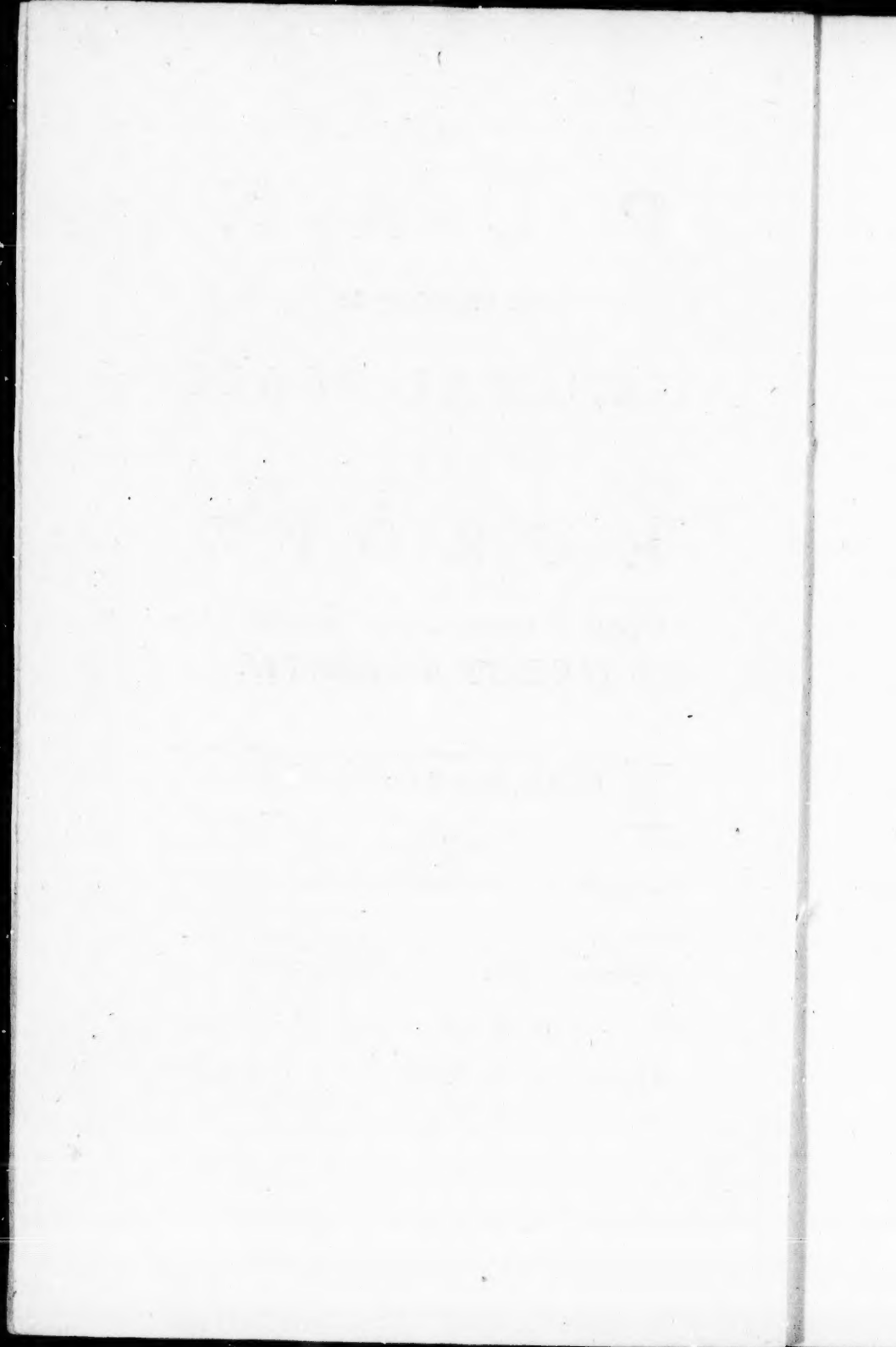
Upon HONOURABLE TERMS to
GREAT BRITAIN.

By Mr. BRECKNOCK.

Hæ Tibi erunt Artes.

L O N D O N:

Printed for R. BALDWIN, at the *Rose* in
Pater-Noster-Row. MDCCLIX.



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P L A N
F O R A
G E N E R A L P E A C E .

THE *French* King, with all
convenient Speed, to with-
draw his Forces from *Canada*, and
from up the River *Mississippi*; and
these Countries so evacuated, to be
delivered up and confirmed to the
B King

King of *Great Britain* and his Successors.

FOR the specific and ready Performance of the above Article, the Court of *France* shall admit a *British* Garrison into the Port, Harbour, and Town of *Rosé*, sufficient, from Time to Time, to defend the same; and the said Garrison shall be subsisted at the Expence of the Court of *France*, at the Rate, and upon the Footing, of *British* Forces.

AND whereas, to support this War with *France*, the *British* Nation hath incurred a Debt of
30,000,000*l*.

30,000,000*l.* sterling, his *British* Majesty therefore insists, that his Subjects shall be reimbursed the Treasure they have so chearfully advanced. And whereas it is notorious to all *Europe*, that the *French* King is utterly unable to answer so great a Demand, it is therefore proposed, that Commissaries, on the Part of *Great Britain*, shall be immediately sent over to the several Ports and Dock-yards of *France*, who, together with Commissaries appointed by the *French* Court, shall make a fair and just Estimate of all the *French* Line of Battle Ships, with their *proper* Cannon and other naval Stores, and the real

Value of them *so* ascertained; and the Ships, with their proper Cannon, Rigging, and other naval Stores, delivered up to the *British* Commissaries in the Name of the King of *Great Britain*, shall be taken and allowed in part of Payment of the 30,000,000*l.* sterling above-mentioned, to all Intents and Purposes, as if the same had been actually paid in Specie.

As for the remaining Part of the 30,000,000*l.* sterling, not satisfied nor paid by this Expedient, the *French* King shall hypothecate to his Majesty of *Great Britain*, all such Funds as are at present appropriated

priated for the Establishment and Payment of the *French* Marine, or at least such Part of the said Funds, as shall be sufficient to discharge the Remainder of the 30,000,000*l.* sterling, within the Space of ten Years at farthest.

THE *French* King, at his own Expence, shall directly block up and destroy the Harbour of *Dunkirk*, and demolish its Forts and Fortifications in so effectual a Manner, as this Article may never be defeated or eluded by the Erection of any future Forts, Harbour, or Fortifications near the same Place, or which, though at a great Distance

tance from the same Place, may be construed to answer the same End and Purpose.

IN tender Consideration of these Advances made by the *French* King towards establishing the Peace of *Europe* on a solid and permanent Foundation, his Majesty of *Great Britain*, on his Part, stipulates to restore to the *French* King all the valuable and important Conquests which the *British* Forces have made in *Asia*, *Africa*, and *America* ; his Majesty of *Great Britain* likewise stipulates to guarantee the same and all other Dominions belonging to the *French* King,

King, whether in *Europe, Asia, Africa, or America*, to the utmost Exertion of his military and naval Power.

PROVIDED nevertheless, and the *French* King expressly declares, that at the Expiration of ten Years, or other sooner Determination, (that is to say, when the Remainder of the 30,000,000*l.* sterling shall be previously paid or otherwise satisfied) the *British* Forces in Garrison at *Brest*, have full Power and absolute Authority to dismantle, demolish, destroy, and utterly erase the Walls, Forts, Fortifications, Batteries, Out-works, Port, Harbour,

bour, and Dock-yard of *Brest*, and all the Forts, Fortifications, and Batteries erected on any of the adjacent Islands, particularly on the Isles of *Aix*, *Rhee*, *Oleron*, and *Bell-isle* ; and the *French* King farther declares, that it is not his Meaning or Intent to defeat or elude this provisional Article, by erecting any future Harbour, Port, Dock-yard, Fort, Fortresses, Batteries, or other Out-works whatever at *Brest*, or at any of the adjacent Islands, or near the same, or which, though at a great Distance from the same, may be construed to answer the same Ends and similar Purposes. And the *French* King farther stipulates,

pulates, that on this *British* Garrison evacuating the Town and Harbour of *Brest*, the *French* Troops, now at *Mahon*, shall deliver up that Fortrefs, and the whole Island of *Minorca*, to the King of *Great Britain*, with all the Fortifications, in as good Condition as they are at present.

WITH respect to the other beligerant Powers invited to accede to this Treaty of Convention, it is proposed,

I.

THAT his *British* Majesty, the
Empress Queen, the *French* King,
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King of *Poland*, King of *Prussia*, and the Landgrave of *Hesse*, shall guarantee the Succession of the Crown of all the *Russias* in the Person and Family of *Charles Peter Ulric*, already declared Grand Duke of *Russia*, and Heir apparent of the Empire.

II.

HIS Majesty of *Great Britain*, the *French* King, the Czarina, the King of *Poland*, the King of *Prussia*, and the Landgrave of *Hesse*, shall guarantee to the Empress Queen all the Dominions and Estates her Majesty now holds in
Germany,

Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Low Countries, or elsewhere.

III.

HIS Majesty of *Great Britain*, the Empress Queen, the *French* King, the Czarina, the King of *Prussia*, and the Landgrave of *Hesse*, guarantee to the King of *Poland* the hereditary Succession of the Crown of *Poland* in the Family of his present *Polish* Majesty, his *Polish* Majesty ceding his electoral Dominions, Titles and Estates in *Germany*, in Manner hereafter mentioned ; that is to say, all his electoral Dominions, Titles and Estates in *Germany* West of the River *Elbe*, and two Miles East of the said River, to the Elector of

Hanover and his Successors ; and all his other electoral Dominions and Estates two Miles East of the River *Elbe*, to his *Prussian* Majesty and his Successors. The said Guarantees to this Article farther stipulate to guarantee to the *Polish* Nobility, all their present Liberties, Privileges, and Immunities, particularly their Crown Capitulation, or *Pacta Conventa*.

IV.

HIS Majesty of *Great Britain*, the Empress Queen, the *French* King, the Czarina, King of *Poland*, and Landgrave of *Hesse*, guarantee to the King of *Prussia* and his Successors, all the electoral Dominions
and

and other Estates of the House of *Saxony* two Miles East of the River *Elbe*. The said Guarantees farther stipulate to reduce all that Country called *Swedish Pomerania*, (excepting the small Island of *Rugen*, with its Dependances, which are to be ceded and guaranteed to the King of *Great Britain* and his Successors) to *Prussian* Subjection, either by Treaty, Purchase, or otherwise ; his *Prussian* Majesty, on his Part, ceding to the Landgrave of *Hesse*, and his Successors, all the Territory of *Silesia* and the County of *Glatz*, and farther ceding to the Elector of *Hanover* and his Successors, all his Dominions, Territories and Estates West of the River

ver *Elbe*, and one *English* Mile East of the same River, wheresoever situate or dispersed, and held by his *Prussian* Majesty in Sovereignty, in Fief, by Treaty, Titularity, in Possession, Reversion, or otherwise. The Elector of *Hanover* stipulating, on his Part, to pay to the King of *Prussia*, or his Successors, the Sum of 200,000*l.* for six succeeding Years by way of Equivalent, and totally exonera-ting such Part of the *Saxon* electoral Territories, Estates, and Revenues, as lye two *English* Miles East of the River *Elbe*, from any Claim or Demand the Elector of *Hanover* may have on the same by
Virtue

Virtue of a Mortgage not yet satisfied or released, and by which it appears, that the Elector of *Saxony* hypothecated certain of his Estates and Revenues for the Payment of the Interest of one Million sterling advanced by the Elector of *Hannover*.

V.

HIS Majesty of *Great Britain*, Empress Queen, Czarina, King of *Poland*, and King of *Prussia*, guarantee to the Landgrave of *Hesse* and Successors, all the Territory of *Silesia* and the County of *Glatz*, and farther undertake to raise him to the electoral Dignity, by the Style
and

and Title of Elector of *Hesse-Saxony*, and *Arch-Treasurer* of the Holy Roman Empire ; which great Office the Elector of *Hanover* undertakes to cede to, and have confirmed in, the Person of the Landgrave and his Family ; the Landgrave, on his Part, stipulating to cede to the Elector of *Hanover* all the Landgraviate of *Hesse Cassel*, the County of *Hanau*, and his other Estates West of the River *Elbe* ; as a farther Equivalent for which cession, the Elector of *Hanover* stipulates to pay the now Landgrave of *Hesse* 100,000*l.* *per annum* for six Years certain.

VI.

THE *French* King, the Czarina, the King of *Poland*, the King of *Prussia*, and the *now* Landgrave of *Hesse*, undertake that the Empress of *Germany* shall transfer the high Office of *Grand Marshall*, and the high Title of *Head of the Evangelical Body*, from the *now* Elector of *Saxony*, to the Elector of *Hanover*; the Elector of *Hanover*, on his Part, ceding the high Office of Arch-Treasurer to the *now* Landgrave of *Hesse*.

Reflections on this PLAN.

Great Britain entered into this present War with two Views; the

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one, to ascertain the Boundaries of *North America*; the other, to reduce the maritime Power of *France*, which began to be a Terror to all *Europe*. Both these Points are gained; the Boundaries and Safety of *North America* are effectually ascertained, and the Naval Force of *France* no longer threatens the Destruction of *Europe*.

FRANCE, by having vastly overstrained her Power, has reduced her Finances to so low an Ebb, that she has no way of recruiting them, but by reforming one half of her Military, and totally striking off her naval Expences, and
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endeavouring to recover her *American, African, and Asiatick* Commerce ; all which great Benefits and Blessings this Plan proposes.

As to the House of *Austria*, it is a known Fact that her Pretensions to *Silesia* are very slender, not to say wholly unjustifiable. But the Proximity of that dangerous Neighbour the King of *Prussia*, made the Empress Queen willing to wrest so great an Acquisition from the *Prussian* Monarch at all Events. By this Plan here proposed, the Proximity of the King of *Prussia* is intercepted, and the Territories of *Silesia* and *Glatz* put

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under the Subjection of a Sovereign who can neither give Umbrage to the King of *Prussia*, nor Jealousy to the Empress Queen.

THE Czarina is herself personally implied in the Guarantee of the Succession of the *Russian* Dominions in the Family of the Grand Duke. Perhaps this was the only Cause that induced her *Russian* Majesty into the Alliance with the Empress Queen, *France*, and the King of *Poland*. For her Enmity, if any she has against the King of *Prussia*, must vanish the Moment that Monarch becomes a Guarantee to her Imperial Majesty. The
Plan

Plan before us, has every one of these great Objects distinctly in View.

THE King of *Poland*, from the Situation and Weakness of his electoral Dominions, was always liable to be a Prey and a Prisoner to the King of *Prussia*. By the Plan here proposed, he is honourably extricated from so disagreeable a Situation, and his Crown, which was merely elective before, is made hereditary in his Family.

THE King of *Prussia* may, indeed, with some Reluctance, cede the whole Territory of *Silesia*, and the County of *Glatz*, to the Landgrave ;

grave; but he will, on mature Ponderation, reflect, that the House of *Austria* would never have permitted him long to enjoy the peaceable Possession of those Dominions, and that the Alternative were much more agreeable to his *Prussian* Majesty's Interest that they should be under the Subjection of the Landgrave of *Hesse*, than under the Dominion of the Empress Queen. Again, as to his *Prussian* Majesty's ceding all his Territories, Titles, Claims, and Estates lying West of the River *Elbe*, and also two Miles East of the same River, certainly his Majesty has no Reason to complain, since by adding all the

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Saxon electoral Dominions and other Estates within two Miles East of the River *Elbe*, making also the farther Acquisition of all the *Swedish Pomerania*, excepting the small Island of *Rugen* with its Dependencies, his Majesty not only gains a greater Territory, but a Territory likewise that is wholly compact, and consequently renders him more respectable : Yet as if these Terms might not be deemed an Equivalent, his Majesty will receive, for six Years certain, the annual Sum of 200,000*l.* agreeable to the Purport of my Plan.

WITH respect to the Landgrave of *Hesse*, he will not only exchange
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a small precarious Territory for one much larger and much more secure, but be invested with the electoral Dignity and high Office of Arch-Treasurer ; so that in every Respect his Condition will be much better'd, and consequently will have no Objection to this Plan.

LASTLY, the Elector of *Hanover* having, in consequence of this Plan of Partition, the whole electoral Territories, Titles, Claims, and Estates of the House of *Saxony* West of the River *Elbe*, and two Miles East of the same River ; likewise the whole electoral Territories,

ries, Titles, Claims and Estates of the House of *Brandenburgh* West of the River *Elbe*, and two Miles East of the same, in conjunction also with the Territories of *Hesse Cassel*, the County of *Hanau*, and other Estates belonging to the Landgrave of *Hesse* West of the River *Elbe*; the Elector of *Hanover*, I say, will become as powerful a Potentate as any in *Germany*, and be a proper Balance between the two great Houses of *Austria* and *Prussia*. The Protestant Interest in *Germany* will be greatly benefited by this Accession of Strength to the House of *Hanover*; for the *Hanoverian* Elector being appointed

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ed *Head of the Evangelic Body* in the Place of the present King of *Poland*, the protestant Members will have a protestant Head to conduct their religious Affairs, whereas at present they are conducted by a *Roman Catholic* in the Person of the King of *Poland*. And farther, the Elector of *Hanover* having, as I propose, the Office of Grand Marshal, the Protestants, on the Demise of their Emperor, will have a Protestant Vicar of the Empire; whereas at present both the Vicars are *Roman Catholics*, which certainly is by no Means a reasonable Distribution of Power, but rather favouring of religious

ligious Despotism and Tyranny,
and calls aloud for immediate Re-
drefs.

THE House of *Hanover* being
thus aggrandifed, will be of fing-
ular Advantage to the Elector *Pala-*
tine, the three ecclefiaftical Elec-
tors, and all the *German* Princes
and leffer Sovereigns bordering on
the *Rhine* and *Mofelle* ; fince they
will be freed from thofe mortifying
and humiliating Demands, or ra-
ther Commands, fo frequently
made by the *French* Court for her
Troops to have a free Passage thro'
their refpective Dominions: De-
mands equally dangerous to grant

or to refuse : Demands to which their Dominions will scarcely ever be exposed hereafter, since the *French* King will be more sollicitous to maintain his own Territories in *Germany*, than desirous of encroaching on the Territories of the neighbouring Princes.

THE Aggrandisement of the House of *Hanover*, will likewise apparently coincide with the true Interest of the Seven United Provinces : For had the *French* Forces conquered the electoral Dominions of *Hanover*, the Dutchies of *Cleves* and Upper *Guelderland*, together with the Territory of East *Frieze-*
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land, as most glaringly was their Intention, the Estates of the United Provinces must necessarily, and in a very short Time, have fallen a Sacrifice to the enormous Ambition of the House of *Bourbon*, and become a Province of *France*.

LASTLY, the Aggrandisement of the House of *Hanover* in *Germany*, will be a Measure greatly advantageous to the Kingdom of *Great Britain*. For that Electorate only became chargeable and expensive to *Great Britain*, by reason that its Territories were too small, or too much dispersed, and by reason also that it could not, of
itself,

itself, maintain a sufficient Force to resist the continual Incurfions and implacable Hatred of the House of *Bourbon*. Happily all these Evils are removed by the Plan here proposed, the Elector being by these Measures enabled to keep up an Army in Time of Peace of fifty Thousand strong, and double that Number in Time of War ; so that this Electorate will never more be in the disagreeable Situation of asking Assistance from *Great Britain*.

Methods to enforce this PLAN.

THE King of *Great Britain*, just and reasonable in all his Transactions, chuses rather to enforce these
 Terms

Terms of Peace by gentle Means, than by open Force. How necessary and how advantageous a Measure it is for all the Belligerent Powers to accede to these Proposals, will appear from the following Considerations.

WITH respect to *France*; was she to refuse acceding to this Treaty, the King of *Great Britain*, by continuing to divest her of her lucrative Colonies and Settlements, by continuing to ruin her Commerce, and destroying her naval Force, might, in a few Months, render her Poverty and Debility so visible to his *Sardinian* Majesty, that

that that Monarch would want no great Inducements to persuade him to augment his Dominions at the Expence of *France*. Probably a bare Promise from his *British* Majesty to guarantee to the King of *Sardinia* and his Successors such Provinces as he shall conquer from *France*, might be an Argument powerful enough to prevail on that Monarch to begin Hostilities in so effectual a Manner, as to convince the Court of *France* that his *Sardinian* Majesty can resent at a proper Opportunity, and has not forgot the Insult offered to his Dominions, by forcibly rescuing out of them a Subject of *France*, contrary
to

to the known Laws of all civilized Nations.

WITH respect to the Empress Queen, the most effectual and the most expeditious Method to convince the Court of *Vienna* that it was her Interest to accede to this Treaty, would be directly (on a Refusal to subscribe to it) to send half a Dozen Ships of the Line, with ten or twelve thousand Transports, to lay siege to the Town of *Leghorn*, and other Parts of the Grand Duke of *Tuscany's* Dominions. An Attack so unexpected, would occasion a sudden and powerful Diversion from the main Body

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of the Empress Queen's Army, and instantly stop up one of the principal Sources from which the Court of *Vienna* regularly draws such large Supplies in Money, amounting annually to more than half a Million sterling. The Acquisition of so fine a Country, and so convenient a Port, were an Object highly worthy the Attention of the *British* Ministry, more especially as we have not, since the Loss of *Minorca*, any one Port in the *Mediterranean* for the Protection of our *Levantine* Trade ; nor is the Conquest of *Leghorn* either so difficult or so distant, as at first Sight it may appear to be. Probably the *Florentines*

rentines themselves, who are not yet thoroughly habituated to the *German Yoke*, would voluntarily and readily yield up the City of *Leghorn* and its Port to the *British* Flag, provided the King of *Great Britain* would erect the rest of the Grand Dutchy of *Tuscany* into a free and independant Republic, and guarantee the same against all the Powers of *Europe*.

WITH respect to the Czarina, in case she refuses to accede to this Treaty, it will be no difficult Matter to convince her Ministry how little they understand, or at least how little they consider, the true

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Interest of her Czarish Majesty and *that* of her Subjects. For immediately upon Notification of such Refusal, the King of *Great Britain* might, and ought, to break off all Connections of Friendship and Commerce with the *Russian* Court, and make an Offer of that Friendship and that Commerce to another Power in the North, who would receive it with open Arms, and who, it is well known, can supply *Great Britain* with all the Commodities which *Russia* now furnishes: Besides, a Commerce with this Northern Power, would be considerably more beneficial to *Great Britain*, as it would be wholly

wholly carried on by *British* Shipping only. A Stroke of this Kind, and so suddenly given, would effectually stop up the principal Source from whence her Czarish Majesty derives all that Wealth, which is the *primum Mobile* that sets all her Armies in motion, and enables them to march into, and *subsist* in, foreign Countries. This Rupture also would eventually introduce into the *Baltic* a *British* Fleet, and happily (if not for all *Europe*, yet at least for all the northern Powers) crush, in its Infancy, the naval and commercial Force of *Russia*.

WE come now to his Majesty of *Poland*, who, should he clamorously
refuse

refuse to accede to this Treaty, might, nevertheless, be silenced very easily, and in a very short Time. For when he perceived that the King of *Great Britain* had not only cancelled his Alliance with *Russia*, but had also proposed, for certain political Considerations, to establish a commercial Tariff with the Republic of *Poland*, (a Commerce equally beneficial to our good Ally the King of *Prussia*) his *Polish* Majesty, I say, would soon be convinced, that he held the Crown of *Poland* by as precarious a Tenure, as he before had held his *German* Dominions.

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THUS, as to all the belligerent Powers, who may be presumed to have the least Shadow of a Pre-
tence for not acceding to this Treaty, we have examined and weighed their Objections; and to induce or inforce so truly Christian and salutary a Measure as that of the general Peace of *Europe*, we have proposed only such Means, and used only such Arguments, as are established, we hope, on the Principles of Humanity, Equity, and sound Politics.

THERE is another Power, which, altho' no Principal in this War, will, I foresee, necessarily be included

cluded in this Treaty ; I mean the States General : But we cannot reasonably expect any Unwillingness, on their Part, in forwarding so great and so good a Work, since the Peace of *Europe* generally coincides with the Interest of the United Provinces. Besides, his *British* Majesty always has it in his Power to oblige them to accede to this Treaty, if not by gentle, at least by coercive Measures ; and those Measures very near at Hand, and attended with no Danger and Expence ; for it is only sending five or six Ships of the Line to the Coast of *Shetland* in the Month of *July*, and the King of *Great Britain*,

tain, in the Space of half an Hour, avails himself of the Shipping, amounting to a thousand Vessels, employ'd by the *Dutch* in their Herring Fishery; which, besides the Capture of 14,000 as good Marines as any in the known World, would be an immediate Loss to the States General of two Millions sterling. A Loss they could never hope to retrieve; a Loss too, which at the same Time that it annihilated the very Existence of them as a commercial Nation, would evidently throw into the commercial Scale of *Great Britain* the very considerable Weight of one Million sterling annually.

LASTLY, it might be intimated to the State of *Venice*, that their supplying the Court of *Vienna* with very large Sums of Money *animo Bellum-gerendi*, was a Measure not consistent with the Character of a neutral Power, since there is no Difference, *in the Effect*, between supplying an Enemy with military Stores, or with the *Means* of procuring such Stores. If *that* otherwise respectable Republic shall think this Distinction too finely spun, his *British* Majesty may send Sir *Edward Hawk* as his Ambassador into the *Adriatic*, whose Abilities in deciding and bringing to a speedy Issue all maritime Contests, are sufficiently

ficiently known to all the Courts of *Europe*.

NOTHING remains now but to carry this Treaty into Execution; for which Purpose, some capital City must previously be appointed for holding a Congress; and indisputably, the Congress ought, for many Reasons, to be held either at *London* or at *Hanover*.

CONCLUSION.

OUR *British* Statesmen have not hitherto been entitled to any Compliments on account of their Abilities and Skill in Treaty-making; on the contrary, those two infamous
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Treaties of *Utrecht* and *Aix-la-Chapelle* alarm, and but too justly, all the thinking and reasoning Part of this Nation with Apprehension, that as wicked a Treaty may possibly be huddled up at the Conclusion of this present War. To avoid so National a Disgrace, was the Intent of my proposing the Plan here offered. But to bring about a Peace that should be honourable to *Great Britain*, and at the same Time, in some Measure, palatable to the different Interests of the belligerent Powers, I found myself under the Necessity of forming a new System of Politics, establishing a new Balance of Power, and striking out new Lights by which our Ministry might

might perspicuously see the stupendous Weight and Power of *Great Britain*, both in its own Basis, and in its relative Connections, when exerted in a proper Degree, and at a proper Opportunity.

LITTLE Ideas are inseparably annexed to little Minds; to such, indeed, this Plan will appear of too gigantic a Size, and of too extensive a Dimension, to be brought within the narrow Compass of their Turn and Mode of Thinking. But great Ideas, and great Objects, only ought to fill the Minds and occupy the Attention of a *British* Statesman. For this Reason, I have
ventured

ventured to publish these political
Hints and Reflections, and flatter
myself that my Labours will not be
totally unacceptable to my King
and my native Country.

*Stafford Row,
Dec. 9, 1759.*

F I N I S.

